

PRESS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Western District of Wisconsin
(608) 264-5158
TTY (608) 264-5006
www.usdoj.gov/usao/wiw

For Immediate Release

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Contact Person

Assistant U.S. Attorney
Assigned to Each Case

FEDERAL GRAND JURY RETURNS INDICTMENTS

Madison, Wisconsin -- A federal grand jury in the Western District of Wisconsin, sitting in Madison, returned the following indictments yesterday. You are advised that a charge is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

EAU CLAIRE MAN CHARGED WITH INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF STOLEN PROPERTY

Stuart G. Kurschner, DOB 6/19/68, of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, is charged with causing stolen goods valued at more than \$5,000 to be transported in interstate commerce. The indictment alleges that from October 2002 to March 1, 2005, Kurschner stole computers from Luther Hospital in Eau Claire, auctioned some of the computers over the internet through eBay, Inc., and shipped them to purchasers outside Wisconsin. According to the indictment, during this time period Kurschner worked at Luther Hospital in the information technology department as both a computer operator and computer builder.

If convicted, Kurschner faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in federal prison. This matter was investigated by the Eau Claire Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul W. Connell.

EAU CLAIRE MAN FACES CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

Jody W. Lowe, DOB 7/5/65, of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, is charged with distributing a visual depiction of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct and with knowingly possessing a CD-Rom containing multiple depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. The indictment alleges that the distribution occurred on September 22, 2005 and the possession occurred on February 8, 2006.

If convicted, he faces a mandatory minimum penalty of five years and a maximum penalty of 20 years in federal prison on the distribution count, and 10 years in prison on the possession count. This matter was investigated by the Eau Claire Police Department and the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul W. Connell.

MADISON MAN CHARGED WITH GUN CRIMES

Larry Hendrix, DOB 12/18/56, of Madison, Wisconsin, is charged in a superseding indictment with being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition. The indictment alleges that on February 9, 2006, Hendrix possessed a Remington, 870 Express Magnum, 20 gauge shotgun and Remington 20 gauge shotgun Super X ammunition. Hendrix was originally charged with possession of the firearm in an indictment returned on March 8, 2006. He is currently scheduled to go to trial on July 24, 2006.

If convicted, Hendrix faces a mandatory minimum penalty of 15 years in federal prison. This matter was investigated by the Dane County Narcotics and Gang Task Force. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul W. Connell.

RICE LAKE MAN FACES ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF ATTEMPTED ESCAPE

Michael Luepke, DOB 1/24/79, of Rice Lake, Wisconsin, is charged in a four-count superseding indictment with conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine from October 2004 to April 2005. He is also charged with two counts of distributing methamphetamine, which the indictment alleges occurred on February 5, 2005 and March 29, 2006. The fourth count of the indictment alleges that Luepke attempted to escape from custody after being arrested on April 20, 2006.

Luepke was originally charged with the drug offenses in an indictment returned on April 19, 2006. He is currently scheduled to go to trial on July 17, 2006. If convicted, Luepke faces a mandatory minimum penalty of five years and a maximum penalty of 40 years in federal prison on the conspiracy count, 20 years on each of the distribution counts, and five years on the attempted escape count.

This matter has been investigated by the Barron-Rusk Drug Task Force and the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation-Narcotics Bureau.

The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter M. Jarosz.

MAN CHARGED WITH ESCAPE FROM JANESVILLE FACILITY

Willie Drinkwater, DOB 11/15/50, of Janesville, Wisconsin, is charged with escape from the Rock Valley Community Correction Center in Janesville, Wisconsin, where he was being held in the custody of the federal Bureau of Prisons. The indictment alleges that the escape occurred on May 21, 2006.

If convicted, Drinkwater faces a maximum penalty of five years in federal prison. This matter was investigated by the U.S. Marshals Service. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul W. Connell.

LA CROSSE MAN CHARGED WITH GUN CRIMES

Christopher C. Charles, DOB 7/24/72, of La Crosse, Wisconsin, is charged in a two-count indictment with possession of a shotgun having an overall length of less than 26 inches, and being a felon in possession of a firearm. The indictment alleges that on April 3, 2006, Charles possessed a shotgun which had an overall length of 20 inches.

If convicted, Charles faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in federal prison on each count. This matter was investigated by the La Crosse Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Elizabeth Altman.

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